

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES  
ADVISORY COUNCIL JOINT COUNCIL OF DEANS MEETING  
MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2007**

DELL BROWN ROOM  
TURNER HALL  
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA  
32 CAMPUS DRIVE  
MISSOULA, MT

**CALL TO ORDER**

CSPAC Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, called the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council joint meeting with the Council of Deans to order on Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at 1:15 P.M. CSPAC Council Members present were: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson, Teacher, Missoula; Ms. Charla Bunker, Teacher, Great Falls; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Ms. Kim Warrick, Reading Specialist, Bozeman; Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; and Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of College of Education, Montana State University-Billings, Billings. Staff members present were: Mr. Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer for CSPAC and Ms. Anneliese Warhank, CSPAC Administrative Assistant. The following people signed the meeting roster: Dr. Larry J. Baker, MSU; Ms. Tracy Grazley, UM Western; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Mr. Erik Burke, MEA-MFT; Dr. Bobbie Evans, UM; Ms. Bonnie Graham, MSU-Billings; Dr. Robert Carson, MSU; Ms. Cindy O'Dell, Salish Kootenai College.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**ITEM 1            CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE – Dr. Douglas Reisig**

Dr. Douglas Reisig gave the Council of Deans an update on the work the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) since the last time the groups met jointly. He handed out a report mapping out the goals of CSPAC for 2006-2007. These goals included: Mr. Chris Lohse's report on connection of poverty and achievement in schools, NCATE review, Chapter 57, and teacher certification suggestions to the Board of Public Education. He also brought up some potential research projects including the hopes of obtaining a grant to expand teacher mentoring programs in the state.

**ITEM 2            COUNCIL OF DEANS UPDATE – Dr. Larry Baker and Dr. Lynette Zuroff**

Dr. Larry Baker opened by thanking Mr. Pete Donovan for all he did as President of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education Committee (NASDTEC) and encouraged everyone present to attend NASDTEC meetings. He continued by suggesting that instead of meeting quarterly in person, the Council should consider monthly meetings with Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson at the Office of Public Instruction via telecommunication. After this he handed the floor over to Dr. Lynette Zuroff who spoke of the issues the Council of Deans had been addressing, these included: Internships, teacher shortages, enrollment/promotion of teacher education, distance learning, accreditation review process, data reporting, school staffing, and alternative routes to teacher licensure.

**ITEM 3            CHAPTER 57 UPDATE – Ms. Kim Warrick, OPI**

Ms. Kim Warrick spoke in place of Ms. Elizabeth Keller, who could not attend the meeting due to prior arrangements. She informed everyone that a number of committees of educational partners had gathered in June to go over the rules. They looked at the wording of specific points of the document in hopes of revising it. The committees each compiled a report that would be presented on October 26, 2007. A full meeting with all the committees will follow on November 7, 2007 where they will look at the suggested revisions. Dr. Douglas Reisig stressed the importance of Chapter 57 on teaching practices at all levels and if anyone has any suggestion to inform either Dr. Larry Baker or Ms. Kim Warrick.

**ITEM 4            NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR TEACHER QUALITY SURVEY – Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI**

Dr. Linda Peterson began by telling how National Council for Teacher Quality (NCTQ) had done a survey of public schools in all 50 states and graded them using a letter grade system. NCTQ did not feel that Montana's teaching standards were measuring up to the standards set for all states. Montana was one of many states to receive low grades. The study looked at many things including: Entry level requirements for new teachers, No Child Left Behind, course workload at the university levels for new teachers, lack of routes to alternative education, and special education. Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson stated that with all these measures, the state had already begun addressing the problems in their own way, or they were part of the conversations taking place to improve teacher quality. She also said that the State Superintendent of Schools, Linda McCulloch, felt the report favored a "cookie cutter" approach and that it ignored Montana's high test scores and other student achievements. The Council was informed that by not participating in the survey the outcome for the state was affected. She finished by saying research suggests not to just test new teacher's competency of the subject, but their ability to teach it as well. Mr. Erik Burke mentioned in order to receive a higher score from this group, a state must incorporate charter schools or other alternative routes to teaching without teacher licensure into its system. Another way Montana could have received a higher score was to have experimented with alternative incentives such as merit pay for teachers. Still, he questioned where the proof was to show that these alternative means were

actually improving education. The group greatly questioned how politically driven was this survey.

#### **ITEM 5           AACTE ACCREDITATION FORUM – Mr. Pete Donovan**

Mr. Peter Donovan spoke about the American Association of Colleges and Teacher Association Conference he attended in Washington D.C. Accountability and accreditation was the main concern of the discussion. Dr. Douglas Reisig asked if two members in the Council of Deans could provide the advantages and disadvantages using the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Dr. Bobbie Evans chose to speak for those in the NCATE process saying it is nice to have a nationally recognized organization such as NCATE or even Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) evaluate the school by offering a third party review. Dr. Larry Baker spoke for those not involved in the process. He agreed it was good to have a third party review, but felt it was time to have a different third party conduct it. He mentioned how he would like to see institutions in the region come together to look at accreditation and felt the best people to judge the schools were the people of Montana. Aside from accreditation, Dr. Larry Baker felt accountability, affordability, and access were also very important. Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh felt differently saying national accreditation was part of the way the state showed its accountability but since not every review team looks at schools the same way, inner-rater reliability must be questioned with these national reviews. Meeting the cost was a problem for the state as the fees for these review teams had risen over the years. Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh hoped by switching to TEAC, MSU chose a more cost effective route. Dr. Lynette Zuroff felt the only advantage of these groups would be that they are national, whereas the most negative aspect was the costs involved. Dr. Larry Baker spoke up again and said it would be nice if this topic was discussed in a more open dialogue concerning NCATE's problems with people from other states. Dr. Larry Baker felt it was important for the teaching quality as well as for the teaching profession. Despite knowing that it did have problems, MEA-MFT viewed NCATE as the premiere accreditation third party and was upset to see MSU step away from it. Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson explained the differences and similarities between state and national standards and Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh added that teacher preparation standards were all based on national standards. Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson said that NCATE standards began being adopted in the early 1990s because they made the most sense at the time. She stressed that we need to make sure groups like NCATE and TEAC are well aware of what the states want to get out of these third party reviews. Dr. Larry Baker ended by saying he will keep everyone informed as to how the transition from NCATE to TEAC goes for MSU.

#### **ITEM 6           HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHER ISSUES ESEA REAUTHORIZATION – Mr. Erik Burke**

Mr. Erik Burke presented CSPAC and the Council of Deans with a proposed draft composed by the American Federation of Teachers for the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. The draft looked at Teacher Excellence for All Children (Title II). The first part of the draft spoke about the Premium Pay Program which provided

grants to districts to provide annual bonuses for “highly qualified teachers with at least 3 years of experience.” Mr. Erik Burke stated this was a bad idea and questioned how this would help districts that failed to meet appropriated levels every year. Both this and the Career Ladder Program concerned MEA-MFT because it would result in federal laws which would make it more difficult for districts to meet local needs. District Teacher Quality Grants were block grants that are distributed according to local assessments. These would include: Subject matter, knowledge, and skills of teachers; identify annual goals for achievement of equitable distribution of teachers between schools in the top and bottom quartile enrollment; and measure effectiveness of professional development programs. CSPAC was made aware the requirements for districts to have a peer mentoring and peer review program was still there and will likely stay, representing one of the few requirements MEA-MFT supported. The next part of the draft looked at Title I requirements. The draft wished to change the Comparability Law so that staff salary differentials for years of employment are taken into consideration when dealing with Title I schools. It also would eliminate High Objective Uniformed State Standards Evaluation (HOUSSE) for veteran teachers and would implement a separate assessment developed by NCLB to prove if teachers were highly qualified too. It did however continue to allow charter schools to hire non-licensed teachers. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) was the next section of the draft. Currently, the law states that progress reports are required yearly for students in reading and math with the intention of reaching 100% proficiency by 2013. The draft would allow schools to include additional academic indicators like science and history but they were still limited to how much these could count towards its AYP progress. It also established limitations of statistics so that districts could no longer skew results. Due to the vast amount of criticism, the draft has undergone more revision. Letters were drafted by both MEA-MFT and OPI and were sent to Montana’s congressmen. Unfortunately, although the Department of Education also felt like the draft needed a few things altered, they refused to budge on such important topics as the Highly Qualified Teacher Measure, the elimination of HOUSSE, and the AYP issue.

## **ITEM 7      OTHER ITEMS**

There were no other items.

**JOINT COUNCIL OF DEANS AND CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PRACTICES MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY CONCURRENCE AT 3:54 PM**

**Separate agenda for CSPAC meeting. Item numbering starts over.**

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER**

CSPAC Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, called the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council meeting to order on Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. CSPAC Council Members present were: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson, Teacher, Missoula; Ms. Charla Bunker, Teacher, Great Falls; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Ms. Kim Warrick, Reading Specialist, Bozeman; Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; and Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of College of Education, Montana State University-Billings, Billings. Staff members present were: Mr. Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer for CSPAC and Ms. Anneliese Warhank, CSPAC Administrative Assistant. The following people signed the meeting roster: Mr. Larry Nielsen, MEA-MFT; Ms. Tracy Grazley, University of Montana Western; Ms. Bonnie Graham, MSU Billings; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI.

**Motion: Ms. Tonia Bloom moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Ms. Kim Warrick. Motion was unanimously approved.**

**Motion: Ms. Tonia Bloom voted to approve the July 19, 2007 CSPAC meeting minutes. Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.**

Mr. Peter Donovan provided a review of CSPAC correspondence, which consisted of a letter from Mr. Steve Gettel. A card from the former CSPAC administrative assistant, Ms. Megan Kerzman, was also a part of the correspondence.

**ITEM 1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - Dr. Douglas Reisig**

CSPAC felt the joint meeting with the Council of Deans went very well. As required, the Council went over the bylaws. No one had any suggestions for revision.

**ITEM 2 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – Mr. Peter Donovan**

Mr. Peter Donovan gave a quick summary of the joint Board of Education meeting in September on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Lame Deer, MT. The Board of Public Education (BPE) also met with the Montana Advisory Council for Indian Education (MACIE). Mr. Peter Donovan updated the Council on the meetings he attended or plans to attend. He reminded the Council that the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education Certification (NASDTEC) Report on Teaching

Mobility was slated to come out in January, which looks at preserving quality as teachers move in and out of states. The report discussed ease of movement, common practices, state demographics, pensions, and salaries. Mr. Peter Donovan mentioned since states do not all have great data systems it made it difficult to develop precise results.

### **ITEM 3 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT – Mr. Peter Donovan for Mr. Steve Meloy**

Mr. Steve Meloy was unable to attend the CSPAC meeting due to scheduling conflicts with the Annual National Association of State Boards of Education Conference (NASBE). Mr. Peter Donovan presented an update of the Distance Learning Task Force Phase II. Three subgroups were discussed: Teacher Qualifications/Dual Credit, Flexibility/Quality/Supplement vs. Supplant, and Fiscal. Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson spoke on behalf of the Office of Public Instruction stating the task force is a representative group made up of educators such as: Administrators, teachers, MEA-MFT, as well as members of the Council of Deans and the Commissioner of Higher Education. One main concern with the task force was the issue of dual enrollment and how this affects the school district. Ms. Tonia Bloom inquired as to how many students are interested in dual enrollment at this point. OPI had yet to get a good picture on who is interested. Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh felt the communication between high school and college was a major plus with dual enrollment and felt this would be a great way to keep students within the state when choosing a college to attend. Mr. Peter Donovan finished by stating he would keep the Council well informed and any licensure issues would be reviewed by CSPAC before being voted upon by the BPE.

#### **Quality Educator Loan Assistance**

Quality Educator Loan Assistance is a program designed to give \$3000 to graduated teachers who go to work in high need academic districts as part of Senate Bill 2. A committee has been established to develop criteria for selecting students, schools, and content area qualifying factors. Mr. Peter Donovan reminded the Council the money was strictly for student loan forgiveness and would be sent directly to the lender. Discussion ensued on the benefits of pre-service teachers choosing a specific route of study as opposed to striving simply for a general educator degree.

### **ITEM 4 OPI UPDATE – Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI**

Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson spoke of the K-12 group which had met the prior day in Helena. The group discussed targets:

- Implement a single system for educational data that links all education data systems from pre-kindergarten through higher education.
- Require essential core courses for all high school students.
- Adopt an overarching dual enrollment policy statewide, establishing methods for developing, implementing and monitoring dual enrollment in Montana’s postsecondary institutions.

- Set reasonable – but ambitious – annual targets towards meeting the 100 percent graduation goal and provide incentives to schools for meeting them.

The group plans to meet again in December. Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson distributed a copy of the paraprofessionals document that gives an outline of the guidelines paraprofessionals must meet. She mentioned that during the January CSPAC meeting, Ms. Elizabeth Keller will bring a template of a certificate school districts hope to issue to paraprofessionals so they may move freely throughout the districts, but this is hindered by different schools holding different standards for their paraprofessionals. Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson talked about a Facts of Montana pamphlet. This showed dollar amounts, enrollment sizes, etc. of public schools throughout the state. Ms. Charla Bunker asked how early leavers were defined as opposed to high school dropouts. Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson informed her there were many formulas to determine graduation rates. Dr. Douglas Reisig requested Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson present at the January meeting to discuss the similarities and differences between K-12 and college on their mission standards.

#### **ITEM 5 GOAL SETTING**

The goals set for the upcoming meetings are: Review the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind presented to the Council at the joint meeting with the Council of Deans; compare NCATE and TEAC; continuing research on teacher mentoring programs; request Mr. Chris Lohse present two books dealing with schools and poverty.

#### **ITEM 6 MONTANA COMMISSION ON TEACHING COMMITTEE – Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson**

The National Commission on Teaching and America's Future (NCTAF) had comprised a map discussing the evolution of education which was distributed at the meeting. The Council found this very thought provoking. The maps are meant to be used as a facilitating tool for NCTAF.

#### **State Mentoring Conference Reports**

Ms. Judie Woodhouse attended a conference in Great Falls dealing with the advantages of teacher mentoring for new educators and educators new to a district. Her school has since begun implementing a program which has received great support from the teachers. Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson attended a conference where she was instructed how to train teachers to be mentors. She has done much research on teacher mentoring and was happy to see how many others were working towards the same goal. Dr. Douglas Reisig brought up the potential surveys CSPAC had worked on to send to schools to see what the needs of the schools are as a whole. It was determined that these would be best sent to superintendents of each district.

## **Montana Education Forum**

The Montana Education Forum was held in Helena on September 28, 2007. The conference dealt with planning for the future of education in the state. Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh attended this year and felt higher education needed to be more involved to get better input on how teachers view teacher preparation programs. Dr. Douglas Reisig encouraged people to attend in the future. Ms. Judie Woodhouse suggested both the Council of Deans and university students preparing for the education field attend as well so they may gather a better understanding of the issues encountered in the profession.

### **ITEM 7 LICENSURE AND ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Kim Warrick**

Ms. Kim Warrick spoke about the Chapter 57 report presented on October 26, 2007 and full meeting on November 7, 2007 where the entire rule will be discussed.

### **ITEM 8 PRE-PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Charla Bunker**

Ms. Charla Bunker spoke about the rising issue of appropriate dress among both teachers and student teachers. The Council felt the dress standards had dropped specifically among the youth and that some teachers failed to present themselves in a professional manner due to their attire. Many felt concerned, especially those at the university level how student teachers who dressed inappropriately were not representing their universities well. Ms. Bonnie Graham from MSU-Billings informed the Council she did have a PowerPoint presentation she shows to university students every year concerning appropriate dress, but interest in the presentation had declined over the years as more students felt this was impeding on their personal rights. Ms. Bonnie Graham agreed to present the PowerPoint at the January CSPAC meeting.

### **ITEM 9 PLAN FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES**

Mr. Peter Donovan spoke about upcoming conferences and pointed out the Western States Certification Conference January 9-11, 2008 which Council members had attended in the past. Many interesting topics will be covered at this conference. Mr. Douglas Reisig said if anyone planned to attend to contact Mr. Peter Donovan within the next week.

### **NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute**

Mr. Peter Donovan told the Council he will be attending the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education Certification conference and will report back to the Council on its outcome at the January 26-27, 2008 Professional Practices Institute meeting.

## **ITEM 10 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Draft Annual Report**

Dr. Douglas Reisig said he will continue to work on the draft annual report in preparation for the joint meeting with the Board of Public Education on July 24, 2008.

### **Review Code of Ethics**

This is an annual review. The Council agreed that dress code should be discussed at the January CSPAC meeting.

## **ITEM 11 PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF CSPAC**

Ms. Char Bunker asked if the Council agreed to discuss No Child Left Behind during the January meeting per Ms. Char Bunker's request.

Dr. Douglas Reisig adjourned the meeting at 11:10 A.M.

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual's ability to participate. Persons requiring such accommodations should make their request to Board of Public Education as soon as possible before the meeting to allow adequate time for special arrangements. You may write or call: CSPAC, PO Box 200601, 46 North Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59620-0601, (406) 444-6576.